

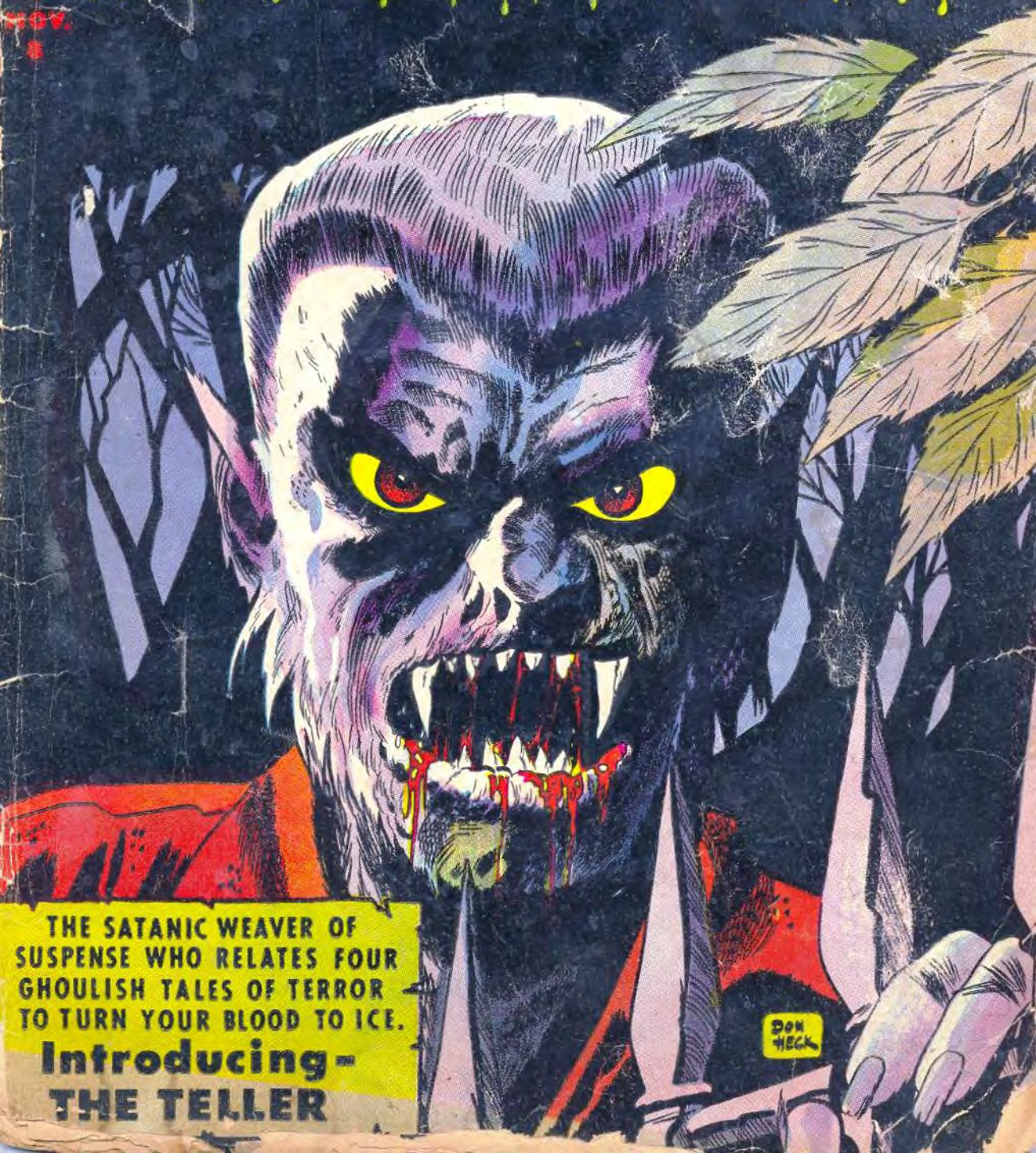
COMIC  
MEDIA

**WEIRD TALES OF TERROR**

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# HORRIFIC

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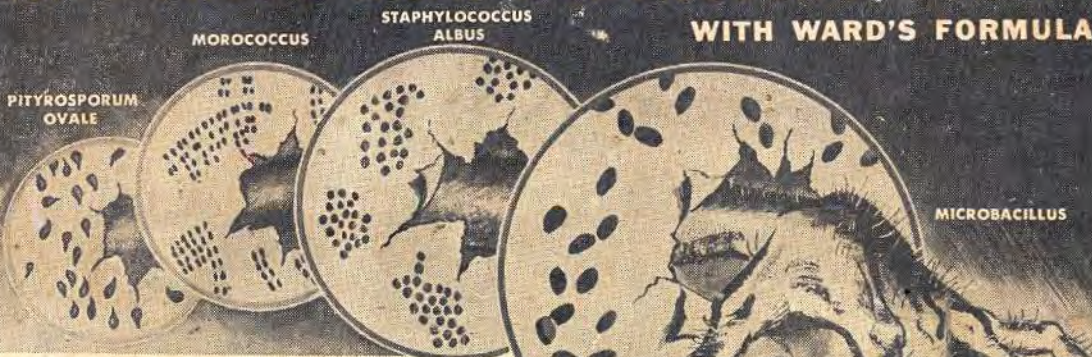
THE SATANIC WEAVER OF  
SUSPENSE WHO RELATES FOUR  
GHOULISH TALES OF TERROR  
TO TURN YOUR BLOOD TO ICE.

**Introducing -  
THE TELLER**

DON  
HECK



# KILL THESE HAIR-DESTROYING GERMS



**NOTHING, Absolutely nothing  
known to Science can do more to**

## SAVE YOUR HAIR

Beware of your itchy scalp, hair loss, dandruff, head scales, unpleasant head odors! Nature may be warning you of approaching baldness. Heed Nature's warning! Treat your scalp to scientifically prepared Ward's Formula.

Millions of trouble-breeding bacteria, living on your sick scalp (see above) are killed on contact. Ward's Formula kills not one, but *all four* types of these destructive scalp germs now recognized by many medical authorities as a significant cause of baldness. Kill these germs—don't risk letting them kill your hair growth.

### ENJOY THESE 5 BENEFITS IMMEDIATELY

1. Kills these 4 types of germs that retard normal hair growth—on contact
2. Removes ugly infectious dandruff—fast
3. Brings hair-nourishing blood to scalp—quickly
4. Stops annoying scalp itch and burn—instantly
5. Starts wonderful self-massaging action—within 3 seconds

Once you're bald, that's it, friends! There's nothing you can do. Your hair is gone forever. So are your chances of getting it back. But Ward's Formula, used as directed, keeps your sick scalp free of itchy dandruff, seborrhea, and stops the hair loss they cause. Almost at once your hair looks thicker, more attractive and alive.

We don't ask you to believe us. Thousands of men and women—first skeptical just as you are—have proved what we say. Read their grateful letters. Study the guarantee—it's better than a free trial! Then try Ward's Formula at our risk. Use it for only 10 short days. You must enjoy all the benefits we claim—or we return not only the price you pay—but **DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK**. You be the judge! © Ward Laboratories, Inc., 19 West 44th St., New York 36, N. Y.

### TO SAVE YOUR HAIR ACT NOW

Send coupon today for 10-day offer. Send No Money

**ACT TODAY or YOU MAY BE TOO LATE!**

Ward Laboratories, Inc.,  
19 West 44th St., Dept. 6011-E, New York 36, N. Y.  
Rush Ward's Formula to me at once. I will pay postman two dollars plus postage. I must be completely satisfied within 10 days, or you GUARANTEE refund of **DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK** upon return of bottle and unused portion.

No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Check here if you enclose \$2.00 with order, and we will pay postage. Same refund offer holds, of course. APO, FPO, Canada & Foreign add 50c; no CODs.

### DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

**HORRIFIC, NOV., 1953, Number 8, Published bi-monthly, by HARWELL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 500 Fifth Avenue, New York 36, N. Y.** Subscription rates: 12 issues \$1.50 in U. S. Possessions and Canada. Foreign: \$2.00 in International Money Order, U. S. Funds. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office in New York City. Additional entry at Wilkes Barre, Pa. Copyright 1953 by HARWELL PUBLICATIONS, INC. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, or institutions appearing in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Advertising representative: Leonard Greene and Associates, 45 West 45th Street, New York City, N. Y. Printed in U. S. A.

SCALP ITCH

FALLING  
HAIR

DANDRUFF

HEAD  
ODORS

**Proof!**

We get letters like these every day from grateful men and women all over the world.

I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.  
E. K., Cleveland, Ohio

Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the most help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.  
C. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.

After using Ward's for only 12 days, my hair has stopped falling out.  
R. W. C., Cicero, Ill.

I am tickled to death with the results. In just two weeks' time—no dandruff! W. T. W., Portola, Cal.  
I feel encouraged to say that the infuriating scalp itch which has bothered me for 5 years is now gone.  
J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

### Guarantee

This written guarantee entitles you not only to return of price paid for Ward's Formula, but **Double Your Money Back** unless you actually SEE, FEEL and ENJOY all benefits herein claimed in only ten days. The test is at our risk. All you do is return unused portion or the empty bottle unless completely satisfied.

Ward Laboratories, Inc.





**WEB COMIC  
UNIVERSE.COM**



# THE TELLER!

THIS MONTH...A NEW CHANGE HAS OCCURRED! WE GIVE YOU WITH PRIDE AND APPROPRIATE SHUDDER...THAT MYSTERIOUS, HANDSOME STRANGER, THAT MAN WHO DABBLES IN THE OCCULT... THAT CONNOISSEUR OF HORROR...  
**THE TELLER OF TALES!**

GREETINGS, MY FRIENDS!! I AM OVERWHELMED BY THIS OCCASION TO COUNT YOU AMONG MY GUESTS... HERE IN MY DEN! MAY OUR RELATIONSHIP BE A MOST CORDIAL ONE...AS I'M SURE IT WILL! ...NOW TO ACQUAINT YOU WITH MYSELF...



...I MUST FIRST POINT OUT TO YOU THAT MY LIBRARY HAS BEEN FILLED AND WAITING TO ENTERTAIN YOU! HERE ARE STORIES NO OTHER SOULS HAVE HEARD... NO LIVE SOULS, THAT IS!



...AND WAITING TO GREET YOU IN MY DEN ARE MY OTHER... FRIENDS... WHO HAVE GRACIOUSLY CONSENTED TO COME HERE ON THIS SPECIAL OCCASION!



DON HECK



"MY GOOD ASSOCIATE... FREDDIE DEMON FROM... I THINK YOU KNOW WHERE! OF COURSE, HIS COMICAL NAME IS ONE OF MY OWN CHOOSING! HE IS KNOWN BY MANY NAMES... FROM HIM WE WILL EXPECT MANY SPINE-TINGLING TALES OF THE OCCULT, OF THE MACABRE, AND OF THE BIZZARE!"



AND NOW MEET GARRY GHOUL... WHO PROMISES TO KEEP ME SUPPLIED WITH CHOICE TIDBITS FROM THE WORLD OF THE DEAD... TALES OF TORMENTED SOULS SHRIEK OUT TO HIM... AND WILL SOON BE OURS!



ALSO IN MY LIST OF "DISTINGUISHED" GUESTS IS VICTOR VAMPIRE... WHO CAME WITH RELUCTANCE SINCE HE WAS... AH... BUSY WITH OTHER PURSUITS, THIS BEING NIGHT AND FULL MOON FOR HIM! BUT I HAVE HIS WORD ON AT LEAST A HALF DOZEN **SELECTED** STORIES FROM HIS EAGER LIPS!



LAST BUT NOT LEAST IS MY FRIEND, WALTER WEREWOLF... AND HE ALSO WILL CONTRIBUTE TO MY FILE OF TERROR-PRODUCING TALES!



AND I, OF COURSE, WILL ADD MY MODEST ACCUMULATION OF WEIRD WHIMSY! YOU MIGHT SAY I AM THE EDITOR OF HORRIFIC TALES... AND THESE WORTHY ASSOCIATES OF MINE ARE MY STAFF OF STIFFS!



NOW... DOWN TO BUSINESS! MY IDENTITY I MUST KEEP A SECRET! HOWEVER I WILL TELL YOU A STORY OF A YOUNG MAN WHO... BUT LET US START AT THE BEGINNING...





IT WAS A SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY IN A VERY MODERN AND HIGHLY GUARDED BUILDING. THE YOUNG CHEMIST WAS DEEP IN THOUGHT AS HE POURED THE EXPERIMENTAL SOLUTION INTO THE BEAKER.



THIS SHOULD DO THE TRICK! JUST A FEW DROPS MORE AND...

IT'S NO USE, WALKER! LET'S CALL IT A DAY! THAT NEW RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPE JUST ISN'T STABLE!

BUT I WAS SURE THIS TIME IT WOULD WORK! SO SURE OF IT!



HANSON'S GONE! GOOD! I'M STILL NOT SATISFIED THAT I'VE FAILED! I'LL TRY ONCE MORE! MAYBE IF I ADD MORE THAN THE NORMAL AMOUNT.



THE EXPLOSION! CAUGHT THE YOUNG MAN UNAWARES! DEADLY RADIATION POURED OVER HIM... GROWING MORE AND MORE INTENSE.



PAIN... SHEER, SAVAGE, NAKED PAIN SEARED THROUGH HIS CONSCIOUS MIND... BURNING OUT ALL NERVOUS SYNAPSES... MELTING DOWN ESTABLISHED NATURAL BARRIERS... DESTROYING, CRUSHING... SUCKING HIM UNDER...





THEN DARKNESS... AND SILENCE AND UNREASONING FEAR! AN ETERNITY LATER... AWARENESS OF THOUGHT... AWARENESS OF AIR... OF WONDER... OF LIFE!



"NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT IN ALL MY YEARS OF PRACTICE! HIS FACE... CHANGED HORRIBLY!"

"SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEAD IN THAT BLAST!"



WHAT ABOUT MY FACE? WHAT HAPPENED? I'VE BEEN HERE TWO MONTHS! BUT WHY DO YOU TALK LIKE THAT?

WHO TOLD HIM? HOW MUCH DOES HE KNOW?

I'D BETTER CALL THE ORDERLIES! HE'S GOING TO MAKE TROUBLE!



WHAT ARE YOU FRIGHTENED ABOUT? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY FACE? DON'T LEAVE THIS ROOM! STOP IT! STOP THINKING THOUGHTS LIKE THAT!



GOOD LORD!



"YOUNG WALKER HAD CEASED TO EXIST! IN HIS PLACE STOOD... A SUPER-HUMAN BEING... WITH POWERS FAR BEYOND THE ORDINARY... POWERS GIVEN HIM BY A FREAK MIRACLE! AND WEEKS LATER..."

ALL THOUGHTS ARE KNOWN TO ME! ALL THINGS ARE SEEN BY ME! THE SECRETS OF THE WORLD ARE MINE!



"MUST SET DINNER AT SEVEN! I'LL CALL JACK AND TELL HIM!"

STOCK REPORTS ARE ENCOURAGING. PARKING SHOULD BE HAPPY NOW...

WONDER IF I MADE A GOOD IMPRESSION ON HIM. MAYBE HE'LL CALL ME!





**BUT HOW TO USE HIS POWERS?  
HOW TO BE HAPPY IN A WORLD  
OF AMBITION, FEAR AND MISERY?  
HOW TO REORIENTATE HIMSELF...**



WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?  
I CAN'T GO BACK TO  
MY OLD JOB! I MUST  
THINK! I MUST!

**SO HE WANDERED OUT ONLY AT NIGHT... SHUNNING  
MANKIND... SHUNNING MANKIND'S PETTY PROBLEMS...  
SEARCHING FOR WISDOM AND HAPPINESS  
...SEARCHING FOR LIFE!**



SOMETHING **EVIL**  
IS HAPPENING INSIDE!  
I SHALL SEE!

...PLEASE!  
YOU MUST  
LISTEN  
TO ME!  
PLEASE!

ALL RIGHT! BUT I'VE  
TOLD YOU MY TERMS!  
HAVE YOU BROUGHT  
IT WITH YOU?

YES!-YES!  
HERE IT IS!  
EVERY CENT  
I HAVE!



GOOD! THEN YOU  
SHALL LIVE! I'VE  
KEPT MY BARGAIN!  
NOW GO!

THANK HEAVEN  
I'VE BEEN IN  
TIME! THANK  
HEAVEN!



AH... HE'S GONE! THE FOOL! HIS  
USEFULNESS IS AT AN END! I  
HAVE ONLY TO ADD HIS CANDLE  
TO THE END OF MINE... AND THEN  
ANOTHER FIFTY YEARS OF LIFE  
FOR ME! HA, HA... THE **FOOL!**



CAN THIS BE? CAN SUCH A  
MONSTER HAVE SUPERNATURAL  
POWERS AT HIS BECK AND  
CALL? I MUST WARN HIS  
VICTIM! HE IS POISED AT  
THE **EDGE OF DEATH!**







**BUT HE LEARNED THAT EVEN HE COULD NOT CHANGE DESTINY! SO HE BECAME DESTINY'S COMPANION... OBSERVING, ALWAYS OBSERVING THE QUIRKS OF LIFE...**



**WE'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING, CARLO! ANYTHING... ONLY ADD MORE YEARS TO OUR LIVES!**

**THEN PAY ME!**



**HERE! HERE! BATHE IN GOLD! TAKE IT! IT'S YOURS!**

**YOU'VE DONE WELL! AND I WILL REWARD ALL OF YOU! YES... GO NOW! GO! AND FIND ME MORE CLIENTS! HA, HA...**

**ONLY I KNOW THE SECRET OF LIFE! ONLY I AM ALL POWERFUL AND MIGHTY NOW! NO MORE MUST I BE SHUNNED, OLD MAN! THE VERY SECRETS OF THE *BOOK OF THE DEAD* ARE HIDDEN WELL IN MY MIND! THAT BOOK I FOUND IS ASHES NOW... AND WELL SO! TO POSSESS IT POWERS MEANS TO POSSESS THE WORLD!**



**SO THE OWNER BECAME RICH! AND HE GREW FAT WITH ARROGANCE AND POWER! BUT THE DESTINIES OF MEN CAN NEVER BE PREDICTED, FOR ONE NIGHT...**



**PSSST! HE'S LEAVING NOW! LET'S GO! GET THE VERY LARGEST CANDLE YOU CAN FIND!**



HURRY!  
HE MAY  
COME  
BACK!

NAW! HE'S GONE FOR THE NIGHT! GEE!  
I'VE GOT THE LARGEST CANDLE I'VE  
EVER SEEN! THIS IS BETTER THAN  
ANY FLASHLIGHT! THIS SHOULD  
MAKE OUR CAVE!



JUST A BUNCH OF BOYS OVERLY MISCHIEVOUS  
...SURELY ONE LARGE CANDLE WOULDN'T BE  
MISSED FROM SUCH A MASS OF THOUSANDS!  
AND LATER THAT NIGHT...

LET'S GO HOME!  
I'M TIRED OF THIS  
CAVE-ADVENTURE  
STUFF!

OKAY! GUESS  
MY PARENTS ARE  
WONDERING  
WHERE I AM  
TOO!



NO MORE  
NEED FOR  
THIS THING!  
PUFF!



INSTANTLY... MILES AWAY...

M-MY HEART!  
SHARP PAIN...  
I.. ARGGH.. H.. H...



OUT CANDLE! OUT LIFE!  
EVIL OVERWHELMED BY  
IRONIC FATE! AND I... THE  
TELLER SAW THE IRONIC  
PURPOSE OF MY LIFE  
ON EARTH!



IT IS FAR BETTER TO BE HAPPY WITH THE  
MEAGRE THREAD OF ONE'S EXISTENCE THEN  
TO YEARN FOR IMPOSSIBLE DREAMS! THUS  
DO I DEDICATE MYSELF TO THE GATHERING  
OF HORROR! MY REASON? TO ACQUAINT  
YOU WITH THE UNKNOWN... SO THAT I IN  
TURN MAY BE ACQUAINTED WITH YOU...  
AND LIFE! AND NOW... TURN THE  
PAGE... AND WELCOME!



THE  
END



**INITIAL RING**  
...for men...  
it expresses your  
...personality

No. 401. Something SPECIAL for men! Personalized with your own INITIAL in RAISED GOLD COLOR EFFECT, firmly set in a sparkling Vermillion Red sparkling Pseudo. Richly flanked with 2 Pseudo Diamonds from Europe. Remember: these are NOT plastic stones. They sparkle with 1000 rays of light! Looks like \$650. Special only **2.95**

*Surprise your friends!*

**AMAZING PSEUDO DIAMONDS**  
made by European Craftsmen  
★ Fiery Colors! ★ Crystal-Clear!  
★ Sparkling Facets!

Thrill your friends with these fiery sparklers! Made in Europe by clever craftsmen to resemble costly African Diamonds! Not cheap plastic stones! Pseudo Diamonds are DIFFERENT — full of fire and brilliancy! Used by some wealthy people to protect their expensive jewels. Now YOU can own a blazing Pseudo Diamond Ring for a few dollars! Choose yours NOW — enjoy at OUR risk! Mail coupon TODAY.

**"ETERNAL LOVE"**  
Wedding Set  
Real Quality!

No. 311. Gorgeous rings to cherish for a lifetime. Imaging — 12 sparkling Pseudo Diamonds imported from Europe, set in this beautiful GOLD COLOR, exquisitely designed. Beautiful like and gleam on her hand. Look like \$750. You'll enjoy them forever! The set, complete in gift box **4.89**



**Mother of Pearl**

No. 410. Handsome gentleman's ring with genuine Mother of Pearl from the seven seas, set on top. Has 3 Flaming Pseudo Diamonds. Electro Gold Plated. Perfect ring to make a lasting impression. Gets compliments from all. Looks like \$500. Yours for only **3.29**

**Skull & X-Bones**  
EYES FLASH WEIRDLY!

No. 314. Amazing! Weird shaped, perfect miniature of skull and crossbones. 2 Pseudo RUBIES flash in semi-darkness. Watch everyone's amazement when they spot this ring on your hand! Electro Gold Plated, only **1.98**



**BIG "5"**  
for Big Men

No. 319. Extra-HEAVY ring with 5 Pseudo Diamonds of great brilliancy. Well finished in gleaming Gold Color. For a big impression, do wear this magnificent ring! Only **3.65**



**U.S. Army Ring**

No. 399. Show your colors, man! Extra HEAVY! Has genuine symbol of U. S. Army with a simulated RUBY in the center. U. S. Flag & Eagle embossed in High Relief. Deluxe quality. Rich gold color. The gift of a Lifetime for veterans, soldiers. Special price **2.95**

**The "Champion"**

No. 405. Super special quality — SURE WINNER! Positively amazing. A real massive, manly, master-piece of Electro Gold Plating. Gleaming. BIG pseudo Diamond in center, attractively flanked by 2 others. An eye-catcher! Only **4.95**



No. 260  
**\$6.97**

DROP IT!  
BANG IT!

**SHOCK RESISTANT WATCH**

The STAFF SHOCK ABSORBER built right into this remarkable watch is one of the great inventions of this century. Saves you time, worry, aggravation! NOW you don't have to take your watch off when playing baseball, football, tennis! YES, bang it. It is even DROP IT. Actually defies breakage. In fact, we'll send you one on trial for a whole week! YOUR MONEY BACK IF YOU BREAK IT! Has night glowing luminous No. 1 hands, sweep-second hand, unbreakable crystal, rich design and FLEXIBLE metal band. Don't lose this lifetime opportunity! Order now by No. 260. Full price — not 1 cent less! **6.97**



No. 203  
**\$7.98**

12 Pseudo Rubies and DIAMONDS

**"The Millionaire" ARISTOCRAT**

Lost word in smart styling for men! Smart imitation rubies and diamonds around the dial! Accurate, dependable, SWISS movement. WHITE GOLD color affect case and matching flexible band. Has Sweep-Second hand. Unbreakable crystal. This watch makes a terrific impression everywhere. Looks like a \$100.00 timepiece and it's very ACCURATE too! We give you 7 full days to try it and compare it with watches selling for much more. Your money back GUARANTEED if you aren't 100% satisfied! RUSH order now and SAVE! Number 203. Your price, only **7.98**



No. 231  
**\$4.95**

Sturdy Swiss Watch for

**MEN & BOYS**

Bargain

A dandy looking Swiss watch at a BARGAIN price! Regular and inspected to Swiss accuracy! Has many quality features found in watches selling for much more! America's 3rd largest Handsome, rich looking, flexible metal band gives full satisfaction GUARANTEED as your money back! No risk nothing! So don't miss this terrific bargain! No extra — complete price, only **4.95**

Order by No. 231



The watch with the  
"MECHANICAL BRAIN"

No. 236

Stop-Watch

**CHRONOGRAPH**

AMAZING... uncanny... the watch with the "MECHANICAL BRAIN" that actually answers your questions on distance and speed! It tells you how fast cars, planes and horses go. Also measures distance and times sports, photography, light ning, pulse beats, etc. Besides it's a handsome, precision-made watch that wins admiration everywhere!

**COMPARE WITH \$29.50 WATCHES!**

Has 2 PUSH-BUTTONS that start and stop movement. \* Telemeter & Tachometer Dials. \* Split-second Calibrations. \* Radium numbers and hands that glow at night. \* Unbreakable crystal. \* Center Sweep hand. \* Rugged construction for long, hard use. \* Special Metal-Flux band. Guarantee and operating instructions given. Order by No. 236. Sale price complete **6.95**

No. 236  
**\$6.95**

**MAIL COUPON NOW FOR SURPRISE GIFT!**

A delightful good will gift given with every order! SEND NO MONEY! Pay postman low price shown. Wear 5 days at our risk. MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE — Full price back if not delighted! In any case, the GIFT is yours to keep! Act first!

**5 DAY TRIAL & GIFT COUPON**

U. S. DIAMOND HOUSE, Dept. 109-H-100  
127 West 33rd Street, New York 1, N. Y.

Write NUMBER, name & price of articles. Pay price to postman on delivery. No extra for Post-Satisfaction GUARANTEED or full price back quick! Send this paper strip to show ring size.

NUMBER	ARTICLE	PRICE

Your NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SAVE MORE — get more — by sending cash or money order with this coupon. We pay ALL fees and you get a GIFT instead of only cash.



ONCE AGAIN, DEAR READERS, WE HAVE A STORY THAT IS GUARANTEED TO MAKE YOUR HAIR STAND UP ON END! IN FACT... MAKE SURE YOUR OWN THATCH OF TONSORIAL SPLENDOR IS SAFELY PINNED DOWN... FOR ON THESE NEXT FEW PAGES, YOU WILL LEARN ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT...

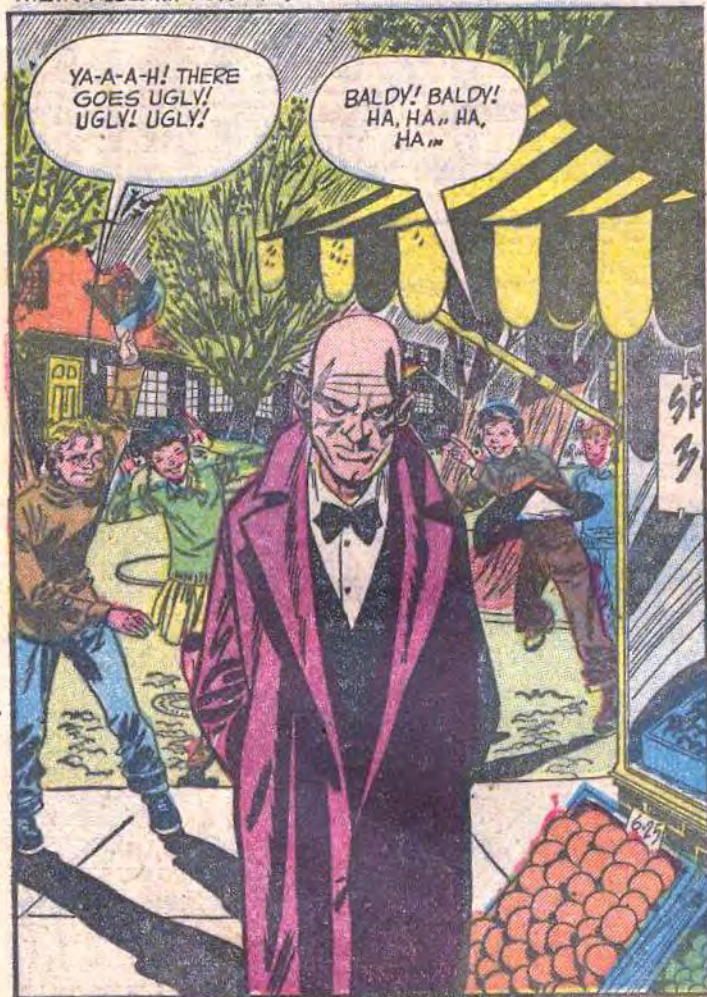
# HIRSCHEL'S HAIR



DON  
HECK

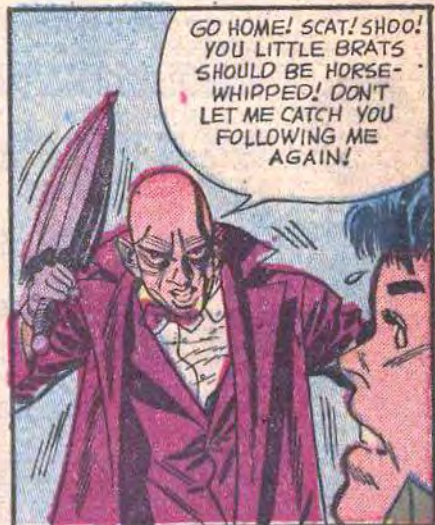


"HUMPHREY HIRSCHEL WASN'T A VERY MAGNETIC MAN... NOR WAS HE VERY HANDSOME! HE HAD A VERY DEFINITE FOLLOWING, HOWEVER! HIS AUDIENCE, AND HIS 'FANS' WERE LOUD IN THEIR ACCLAIM FOR HIM!"



YA-A-A-H! THERE GOES UGLY! UGLY! UGLY!

BALDY! BALDY! HA, HA, HA, HA!!!



GO HOME! SCAT! SHOO! YOU LITTLE BRATS SHOULD BE HORSE-WHIPPED! DON'T LET ME CATCH YOU FOLLOWING ME AGAIN!



BRPPP! LOOK WHO'S TALKING! OL' BALDY 'N THE BEAK!

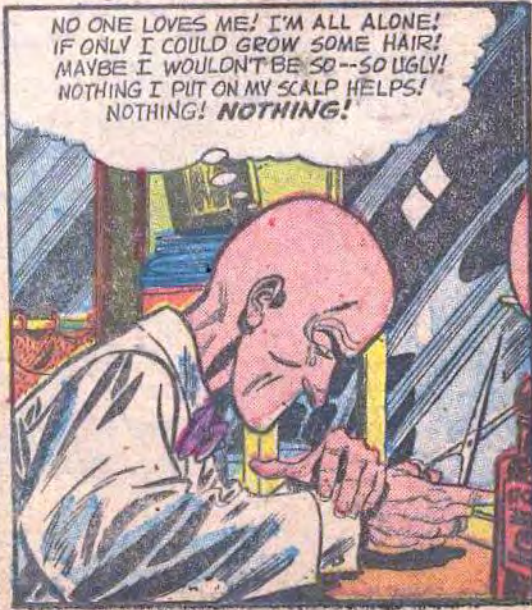
GET YOURSELF A NEW FACE! UGLY, UGLY! YA-A-AH!



HIRSCHEL WAS A BARBER... AND A GOOD ONE! BUT HE WAS A VERY SENSITIVE SOUL! FOR, WHEN FATE HAD MADE OUR HERO A BARBER IT HAD ALSO PLAYED A TRICK ON HIM...



I CAN'T HELP IT IF I'M UGLY! I CAN'T HELP IT IF I'M BALD! THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW AGAINST A PACK OF RAGAMUFFINS LIKE THEM!



NO ONE LOVES ME! I'M ALL ALONE! IF ONLY I COULD GROW SOME HAIR! MAYBE I WOULDN'T BE SO--SO UGLY! NOTHING I PUT ON MY SCALP HELPS! NOTHING! **NOTHING!**



SO HIRSCHTEL CONTINUED TO SUFFER, AND HE ALSO CONTINUED TO CUT, CUT, CUT OTHER PEOPLE'S HAIR! HAIR... THE VERY WORD DROVE HIM WILD!



NEVER SAW HIM  
HERE BEFORE!  
LOOK AT THAT  
MANE!

WHAT A GORGEOUS HEAD  
OF HAIR, SIR! YOU'RE NEW  
HERE, AREN'T YOU? I  
SUPPOSE YOU'RE JUST  
PASSING THROUGH  
CRANTON!

NO... I'M SETTLING  
HERE! I HAVEN'T  
BEEN FEELING TOO  
WELL LATELY! MY  
BUSINESS DOESN'T  
PRODUCE SUCH GOOD  
PROFITS ANYMORE!



I'M A CUTTER!  
MY NAME'S  
VAN PVR!

OH... YOU MUST BE THE PARTY  
WHO RENTED THE KABLE  
HOUSE... IT'S BEEN EMPTY FOR  
YEARS! WELCOME TO OUR  
TOWN, SIR!

HMM... IF HE'S  
A CUTTER, HE  
PROBABLY A  
JEWELER!



SO HIRSCHTEL SNIPPED AND QUESTIONED AWAY UNTIL...

THANK YOU FOR  
THE HAIRCUT!  
GOOD DAY!

GOOD DAY, SIR!  
CALL AGAIN!



PHW! SMELLS LIKE A  
..A BEAST! BUT WHAT A  
MOP OF BEAUTIFUL HAIR!  
REALLY BEAUTIFUL!!



BUT HIRSCHTEL FORGOT ABOUT CUSTOMERS AFTER  
WORK! HIS MIND TURNED TO OTHER THINGS... BESIDE  
HAIR... THINGS LIKE LOVE, A GIRL, AND MARRIAGE...

MARRY YOU? HA-HA!  
OF COURSE NOT!  
NOW DON'T BOTHER  
ME ANYMORE!

B-BUT MARY LOU...  
I... I THOUGHT...  
YOU SAID...





I SAID NOTHING OF THE SORT! I JUST TOLD YOU IT WOULD BE NICE SEEING YOU AGAIN! I HARDLY EVER EXPECTED YOU TO TAKE ME SERIOUSLY! COME BACK WHEN YOU CAN GROW SOME HAIR... AND **NOT BEFORE!**



SO HUMPHREY HIRSCHEL RESIGNED HIMSELF TO A LIFE OF TONSORIAL EFFICIENCY! ONLY FATE WAS TO HAVE **ANOTHER** CAREER FOR HIM!  
...TWO WEEKS LATER...



MY... WHAT A LARGE COFFIN! WHO DIED, CLEM?

THAT JEWELER FRIEND OF YOURN, HUMPHREY! HE JUS DONE KEELED OVER FROM LACK O' FOOD! DOC PARKER SEZ HE NEVER SEED A MAN SO STARVED!



HIRSCHEL DIDNT KNOW WHAT CAME OVER HIM AFTER THAT! HE SHUT THE STORE IN A SWEAT... AND THAT EVENING WHEN HIS FRIENDS WERE ALL ASLEEP IN BED...

...ALMOST DUG UP... NOW... THERE! NOW TO OPEN UP THE TOP... AND...



IT'S EVEN MORE ABUNDANT THAN I THOUGHT! UGGHH! HE LOOKS GRUESOME... BUT HE STILL HAS HIS HAIR... HIS **MAGNIFICENT HAIR!** AND NOW IT'LL BE **MINE!**



AND ONE HOUR LATER, IN HIS OWN ROOM...

LOOK AT IT SHINE AND GLUSTEN! IT'S ALMOST ALIVE! I'LL MAKE IT INTO THE BEST TOUPEE ANYONE EVER SAW! WON'T MARY LOU BE SURPRISED!



THINK I'LL PUT IT ON FOR A MOMENT - JUST TO SORT OF GET AN IDEA OF HOW I'LL LOOK! MY IT'S WARM! FUNNY! -VERY FUNNY! FEEL SO STRANGE!





THAT'S WHEN HUMPHREY HIRSCHER EXPERIENCED THE NEW LOOK!



THE HAIR UNDULATED, TWISTED, AND PULLED! IT WRIGGLED AND DANCED! AND HIRSCHER

A "CUTTER" HE SAID HE WAS! HA, HA...A VERY GOOD JOKE! VAMPIRE'S ARE "CUTTERS!" GUESS HE WASN'T A GOOD "BUSINESSMAN!" BUT I'M DIFFERENT! I'M GOING TO MAKE A HUGE PROFIT!



AND WITH HIS NEW HAIR AND HIS NEW LOOK... HIRSCHER STRUCK! MARY LOU EXPERIENCED A HOME COMING NO OTHER GIRL HAD EVER BEEN PRIVILEGED TO EXPERIENCE...

HOW LOVELY YOUR NECK IS! HOW LOVELY... AND HOW FULL OF SWEET SWEET BLOOD!



HOW WONDERFUL I FEEL! THE WORLD IS MINE! I'LL NEVER FORSAKE THIS HEAD OF HAIR! THE MORE IT GROWS... THE MORE EFFICIENT I'LL BE AS A VAMPIRE! FROM NOW ON, IT WILL ALWAYS BE A PART OF ME! ALWAYS!



AND HIRSCHER BECAME POPULAR FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE!

FOLKS SAY A VAMPIRE'S ON THE LOOSE! SIX PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FOUND MURDERED HEREABOUTS!

SOMETHING OUGHTA BE DONE! AND SOON!

RAVE ON, FOOLS! YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME!





AND FOR AWHILE HIRSCHTEL WAS PRETTY GOOD AT LAYING LOW... UNTIL

UGH-H... CAN'T SEEM TO TAKE THIS OFF! IT'S ACTUALLY **GROWING** INTO MY SKULL! HOW AM I GOING TO HIDE IT NOW?



I KNOW WHAT I'LL DO! I'LL PIN THIS DOWN SO... AND PUT A RUBBER SKULL TOP ON IT SO... TO MAKE OTHERS THINK I'M STILL BALD! THEN IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS, I'LL LEAVE THIS TOWN FOR GOOD... AND START OPERATIONS IN THE BIG CITY!



PUFF... PUFF... THEY DIDN'T SEE ME! I CAN... STILL GET AWAY!... SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO GREEDY OVER THAT GIRL'S BLOOD! GOT TO BE CALM NOW... HERE THEY COME!



BUT HIRSCHTEL WASN'T THE "BUSINESSMAN" HE THOUGHT HE WAS! HE WAS VERY CARELESS IN HIS TRANSACTIONS ONE NIGHT AND



UH... HELLO, FOLKS! DID YOU CATCH YOUR... AH... VAMPIRE?

YES... AFTER COMPARING NOTES AND NOTICING SOMETHING WE DID DAYS AGO!



W-WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT? SURELY YOU DON'T THINK...? NO! STAY AWAY FROM ME! ARE YOU ALL MAD? HOW CAN I BE THE VAMPIRE? I HAVE NO HAIR! YOU ALL **KNOW** THA...



THEN HUMPHREY SPOTTED SOMETHING ON HIS COAT SLEEVES... SOMETHING THAT EXPLAINED WHY MISTER VAN PYR HAD MADE SUCH A ROTTEN VAMPIRE! FOR HAVING FALLEN THROUGH THE RUBBERIZED CAP ON HIRSCHTEL'S HEAD WERE LARGE FLAKES OF... **DANDRUFF!**





# COFFIN O R N E R



Welcome to my Den, dear readers. I am the Teller-of-Tales who will be here to greet you every month. I hope our friendship will be a long and fruitful one—for I have many stories and incidents that will keep you well-entertained. Here are forgotten tales and tales that cannot be told without burning the candle long into the night. Here are tales that have been culled from the blood-curdling shrieks of witches and warlocks, and demons and ghouls. Here are tales that can happen and may happen one dark, dismal night. And presiding over all—am I, your host—eager to bring you tales that are old and new, bold and blue!

Your letters and your comments have been anxiously accepted—for it is my purpose to give you the BEST in horror entertainment. Above all—speak out on any subject you wish to see in print that will give us all a delightful shudder on cold frozen nights—and on wind-swept, mournful days. Let me hear from you, and I promise you you won't regret it. To those who sent me the pile of letters, I give my most sincere thanks. I shall try and answer all of them. And I shall print here the most interesting ones. And now for this month:

Dear Teller:

"I have long been a Horror addict and generally enjoy most of the stories I read—but the other day, your last issue of *Horrific* topped all my expectations! Keep it coming in exactly the same format. I mean—keep it horrible and spine-chilling!

Yours truly,  
Arnold Grant  
[Salt Lake City, Iowa]

Thank you, Arnold, for your bouquets. We'll try to make every issue of *Horrific* stand up to its name. However, since you didn't mention what specific issue it was that made you write in to us, we'll wait to hear from you again on our *forthcoming* issues. We have a surprise in store for you—something to top even *your* compliments!

Dear Teller:

"Why don't you print stories that have a more realistic approach? How long can you expect us to like vampires, werewolves and such other monsters? And why not give tales that have more surprise?

Irritated,  
Henry Borden  
New York City

Dear Henry:

We are doing *just* that! I think you'll see the difference very shortly. Horror tales are experiencing a development towards more adult themes—and towards a more realistic setting. But now and then when we come across a very "Horrific-ifying" vampire, werewolf, monster tale in our files, we'll include it in our book. As for more suspense, keep posted with your dealer. Our next issue promises to be jam-packed with the stuff shudders are made of!

That's all for now, dear readers. I'll see you next month with more letters and more comments about the stories waiting to be told by myself—the Teller-of-Tales. Remember—I invite you to be my guest again, where more letters will be printed as our friendship grows. Until then—

Horrific-ally yours,  
THE TELLER



Write to:

TELLER-OF-TALES  
Horrific-Harwell Publications, Inc.  
500 Fifth Avenue  
[New York 26, N. Y.]



# BLOOD SUCKERS



Just a little over two hundred years ago there appeared throughout Europe an epidemic of accounts—not just stories or tall tales told for amusement, but supposedly factual reports—of the exploits of vampires.

Originally, a vampire was described as the soul of a dead man which left a buried body by night to suck the blood of living persons.

Creditable witnesses to the raids of vampires, however, protested that it was no intangible soul that preyed upon the horribly drained victims. They described the blood-suckers in a wide range of forms from a wisp of a ghost to an oversize ghoul with fangs and a furry face. The majority of those who told of seeing vampires seemed to agree that these night prowlers were probably the corpses themselves, still attired in their shrouds and made even more frightening by their terrible lust for blood.

Several books were written on the subject at the time, the two most famous being Ranft's *De masticatione mortuorum in tumulis* and Calmet's *Dissertation on the Vampires of Hungary*. The latter was translated into English in 1750.

From these and other authorities it was learned that when a vampire's grave is opened, his corpse is found to be as if it were very recently interred or as a living body looks after a feast. To quote one report: "The supposedly dead will be fresh and rosy from the blood it has absorbed from the living."

When such a corpse is found in such a grave, there is only one thing to do. A stop must be put to the ravages of the vampire by driving a stake through the heart of the corpse. Some people claim other methods are as effective. For instance, cutting off the head of the corpse or removing its heart and burning the body. There is even one school of exorcists which holds that the vampire can be eliminated by

merely pouring boiling water and vinegar over the grave.

Persons who turn vampires are usually wizards, witches, suicides and those who have come to a violent end or have been placed under a curse by their parents or excommunicated by the church. Anyone, however, may become a vampire if after death and before burial a cat leaps over his corpse.

About the time that reports of the depredations of vampires had begun to die out in Europe, a new theory of the origin of these bloodsuckers gained some currency. It was said that a vampire could be the soul of a living man which leaves his body in sleep, to go in the form of a straw or a fluff of down and suck the blood of other sleepers.

Since neither straw nor pillow-stuffing is constructed so that the sucking and transportation of blood seems a likely activity in which they could be engaged, it was also necessary to assume that after the living man had transformed himself into a straw in the wind who floated to his victim, he must have again transformed himself into something upon arrival, sucked his fill of blood, and then reversed the whole process. That "something" was ordinarily thought to be a cat or more often a bat.

There was, thus, a brief flurry of vampire-bat stories, but these had all the earmarks of fiction and the whole theory was too complicated to win the belief of even the most credulous.

Meantime, though, the vouched-for accounts of vampires were being traced back to their sources. Most of them seemed to have originated in Hungary between the years 1730 and 1735. Here the researchers came across some facts—facts more horrible than any of the vampire tales!

During these fearful five years there were a number of graves that had to be disturbed for legitimate reasons. A group of reputable citizens opened the coffins and examined the bodies. They reported that the corpses had not been embalmed and that while the bodies of these persons were thought to have been dead, they were actually buried alive!

The whole lore of vampires apparently had its beginning in the horrific description of those tortured bodies—the twisted positions of the corpses, the marks of blood on the shrouds and on the faces and hands, the frozen terror of suffocating death after a frenzied struggle in a sealed and buried coffin.



# **PORTRAIT OF DEATH**



NEWS-HEN PAT CARTER RUSHES TO THE  
LATEST MURDER SCENE AND FINDS HER  
FIANCE, DETECTIVE JIM YOUNG, ALREADY THERE.

HELLO PAT. YEAH  
THE SAME THING/  
VICTIM DEAD... DRAINED OF  
BLOOD AND NO CLUES!







IT'S SO HORRIBLE AND

THAT MAN WITH THE  
SATCHEL! I WONDER IF  
HE HAS ANY CONNECTION?



BYE NOW JIM! I--I HAVE  
TO GET BACK AND WRITE  
MY STORY.

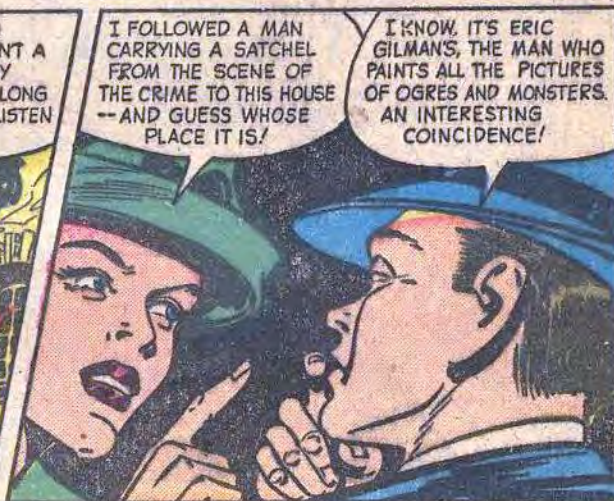
HMMM! THERE GOES A  
SMART REPORTER--AND IT'S  
JUST POSSIBLE SHE'S GOT  
ON TO SOMETHING WE'VE MISS-  
ED. LET'S FOLLOW HER, PETE!



TEN MINUTES LATER...

WELL, MISS BLOODHOUND,  
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHEW! JIM, YOU  
STARTLED ME! CAN'T A  
GIRL DO A JOB BY  
HERSELF? BUT AS LONG  
AS YOU'RE HERE, LISTEN  
TO THIS--



I FOLLOWED A MAN  
CARRYING A SATCHEL  
FROM THE SCENE OF  
THE CRIME TO THIS HOUSE  
--AND GUESS WHOSE  
PLACE IT IS!

I KNOW, IT'S ERIC  
GILMAN'S, THE MAN WHO  
PAINTS ALL THE PICTURES  
OF OGRES AND MONSTERS.  
AN INTERESTING  
COINCIDENCE!



OH, STOP! HE WOULDN'T  
BE THE MURDERER--  
PROBABLY JUST COLL-  
ECTING LOCAL COLOR.  
I'M GOING TO INTERVIEW  
HIM AND GET HIS  
VIEWS ON THE  
MURDERS. AND  
DON'T HANG AROUND  
TO SPOIL MY PLANS!

OKAY, HONEY  
I'LL GIVE YOU  
FIFTEEN  
MINUTES.  
THEN I'M  
COMING IN--



AND A MOMENT LATER...

A REPORTER, EH? YOU ARE  
CURIOUS ABOUT MY PICTURES,  
I SUPPOSE? WELL, I CAN  
SPARE TEN MINUTES. COME  
IN, WILL YOU PLEASE?



IF SHE DOESN'T COME  
OUT ON TIME--WE'RE  
GOING AFTER HER. I  
DON'T LIKE THIS  
PLACE!

I KNOW  
WHAT YOU  
MEAN!



MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE HOUSE...

MR. GILMAN, I'VE HEARD PEOPLE ASK HOW YOU GET SUCH LIFELIKE FEELING INTO YOUR IMAGINARY SUBJECTS --AND KNOW I KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN.

IMAGINARY? WHO'S TO SAY THESE CREATURES DO NOT EXIST?



OH, PLEASE! YOU DON'T REALLY BELIEVE--

WHY NOT? LOOK AT THIS ONE. OUR ANCESTORS BELIEVED IN THEM, ESPECIALLY HERE IN NEW ENGLAND. THE AIR AND THE EARTH WERE RUMORED TO BE FULL OF OGRES, GARGOYLES AND ALL SORTS OF WEIRD BEINGS.



MR. GILMAN, I REALLY CAME TO ASK YOUR OPINION ABOUT--

THE TIME! I'M SORRY, MY DEAR, YOU MUST LEAVE, PLEASE, IMMEDIATELY!



WAGER FOR A STORY, PAT STALLS UNTIL--

--AND MY READERS WOULD LOVE TO KNOW--OH! WHAT WAS THAT?

I TOLD YOU TO GO, YOU LITTLE FOOL!



ALRIGHT, MR. GILMAN I'LL GO!

HA'HA! TOO LATE MY DEAR! NOW YOU MUST STAY. YOU CAME TO LEARN A LITTLE ABOUT ME--NOW YOU WILL LEARN ALL! HE-HE-HE!



COME--THIS WAY, MY DEAR, AND I'LL SHOW YOU MY PRIVATE WORKROOM!

BUT I'D RATHER NOT-- IS HE CRAZY? WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED IF I'LL SCREAM LIKE A SILLY FOOL!



THERE! NOW YOU SHALL SEE THINGS THAT NO PERSON OF YOUR GENERATION HAS EVER SEEN

PLEASE! I WANT TO GO--





MR. GILMAN!  
WHY ARE  
YOU  
LOCKING  
THE DOOR!  
LOOK AT THAT  
BRICKED--OVER  
ARCHWAY! IT  
USED TO CONNECT  
WITH THE ACTUAL  
TUNNELS AND SEWERS  
THAT OUR ANCESTORS  
BELIEVED WERE  
INHABITED BY  
DEMONS!

SEE? HA-HA! I HAVE PLEASE,  
A MOVIE CAMERA TO MR. GILMAN--  
RECORD THE ACTIONS UNLOCK THE  
OF MY MODELS! AND DOOR?  
HERE ON THE EASEL, IS MY LATEST SUBJECT!  
NOW ARE YOU BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND?

AND LAST, BUT OF MOST THE BLACK  
IMPORTANCE, BAG! THAT'S--  
THE BAIT! THAT'S--!  
AH, YES-- THE BAIT!

RIGHT! IT'S BLOOD! AND  
NOW A MERE PUSH OF THE  
BUTTON--  
HA-HA-HA!



--AND WE DISCOVER  
THAT THE ARCHWAY  
STILL CONNECTS  
WITH THE ANCIENT  
TUNNELS!  
WHY, YOU'RE  
MAD!...YOU  
ARE THE KILLER  
E-I-E-E-E!

WHAT IS--?  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING--!  
RIGHT! RIGHT!  
THERE'S SOME THING  
WATCH CLOSELY!

NOW YOU CAN SEE WHY THE  
SUBJECTS OF MY PAINTINGS  
LOOK ALIVE--!







--BECAUSE THEY  
**ARE** ALIVE/ HA-  
HA-HA-HA-HA!

IT--IT CAN'T BE REAL/  
I'M DREAMING!



SO! I PAINT FROM LIFE  
WHILE THE CAMERA  
RECORDS EVERY DETAIL  
FOR THE FUTURE!

OH, PLEASE! LET ME--  
OUT OF HERE,  
PLEASE!



DON'T WORRY, MY DEAR. I'M FINISHED  
WITH **THIS** MODEL, AND I'M GET-  
TING RID OF IT. I GET RID OF  
ALL OF THEM. THIS JAR CONTAINS  
ENOUGH POISON TO KILL AN ARMY!!



IN FIVE MINUTES  
THE STUPID THING  
WILL BE DEAD--  
OH, NO!! NO!!

IT  
UNDERSTANDS.



OUT OF MY WAY! I'M GETTING  
OUT OF HERE--

DON'T LEAVE ME!  
DON'T--OH!!



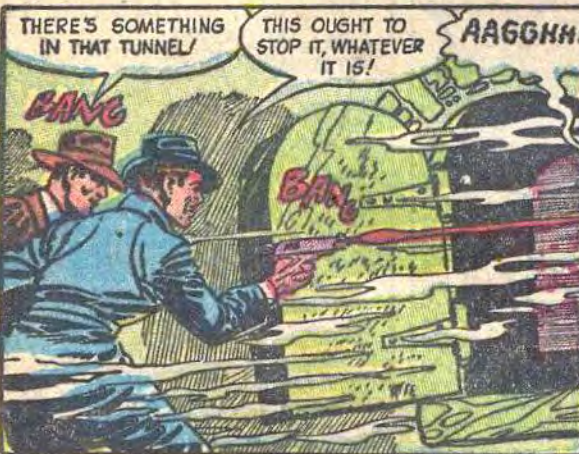
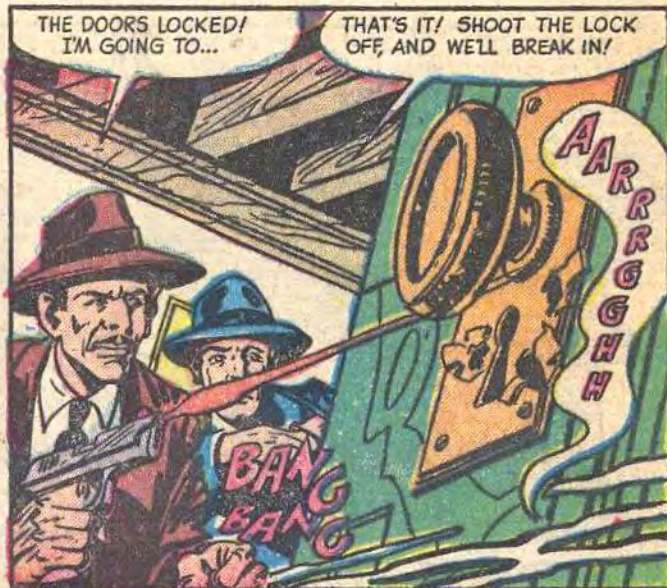
NO! DON'T TOUCH ME! THAT  
WAS A LIE! THERE WAS  
NO POISON! DON'T!!

I'M GOING  
TO--  
OH-H-H-H-H!!

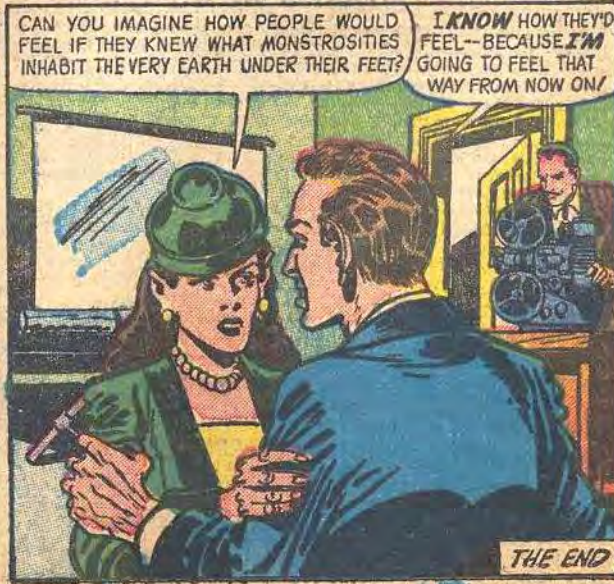
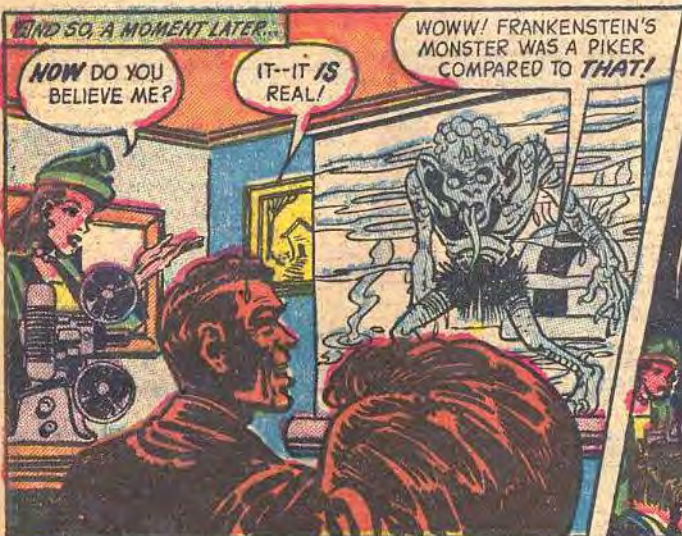


**NO! NO!**  
A-A-A-A-A-A!!









THE END



**SENSATIONAL RESULTS REPORTED IN CURBING**

# PIMPLES

**BLACKHEADS, ACNE AND OTHER EXTERNALLY CAUSED SKIN BLEMISHES**

**CLINICAL TESTS SHOW  
100% SUCCESS**

**HERE ARE THE  
AMAZING TEST RESULTS**

in 45 cases the pimple condition  
was completely cured  
in 38 cases the pimple condition  
was greatly improved  
in 17 cases the pimple condition  
was noticeably improved

**100% success — in every tested  
case of pimples**

Actual clinical tests of 100 acne patients, with a new twin-action method and formula—show that the acne or pimples were decidedly improved or completely arrested in every single case tested!

Recently, a leading medical journal published the results of exhaustive tests on the treatment of acne. 100 young men and women patients—suffering from acne condition of their skin—were carefully selected from four leading hospitals and clinics. All the patients were questioned and advised on personal hygiene, dietary, cosmetic and postural habits, and other aggravating factors.

As part of the prescribed treatment, a new skin formula was tried. The immediate effect of the formula, was to cover up the pimples and blemishes, and make the skin appear smoother, clearer instantly! With this formula it was possible to maintain active treatment during the day as well as at night.

The result, so astonishing as to warrant its being reported to the entire medical world in a leading doctors' journal:

**The Acne Was Decidedly Improved or  
Completely Arrested In All Cases!**

Imagine that! 100% success! Every case of acne helped!

With the publication of these phenomenal results Ward Laboratories' chemists immediately reproduced the same formula, used so successfully in these tests, for your use at home. The general instructions given to each of these hospital patients are also included so that the home treatment parallels the one reported giving these record-smashing results. This amazing Ward's Skin Formula is now available for you. No matter what you have used—no matter how skeptical you are—you may at last put this wonderful treatment to the test in your own case—NOW!

Maybe you're among those who have tried every kind of skin preparation without success—maybe you are skeptical as to whether Ward's Skin Formula is the preparation you have been waiting for.

Either way don't delay—you have everything to gain at no risk, because our Guarantee Policy assures return of Double Your Money Back unless you are delighted with the results of the complete Ward's Skin Treatment. So fill out and mail the coupon—NOW. Full 60-day supply only two dollars—about 3c a day.

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Trial! You get re-  
sults, or we refund  
DOUBLE YOUR  
MONEY BACK**

**ACT NOW!**

**Send COUPON TODAY For  
Sensational No-Risk Offer!  
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**RUSH THIS NO-RISK COUPON NOW!**

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19 West 44th St., Dept. 6011-D, New York 36, N. Y.

Please rush 60-day supply of Ward's Skin Formula in plain wrapper at once. I will pay \$2.00 plus postage on delivery. I must be delighted with results or you guarantee **DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK** on return of unused portion.

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☐ Save Money! Enclose \$2.00 (Cash, Check or Money Order) and we pay postage. Some double refund offer holds. APO, FPO, Canada and Foreign please add 50c—as C.O.D.s



# SEWER HORROR



CARROLL



JOAN

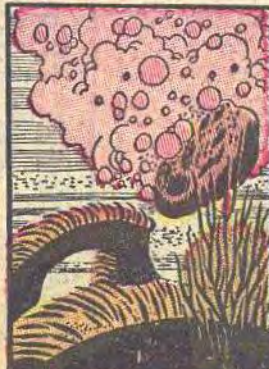


OUT OF THE HEAVENS IT CAME...THE MYSTERIOUS METEOR WHICH WAS TO BRING HORROR UNTOLD TO THE PLANET EARTH. FOR MANKIND THE MASTER QUAKED TO A GREATER MASTER...A MASTER NAMED DEATH!

DOWN THROUGH THE ETHER IT FLASHED...DOWN...EVER DOWNWARD, UNTIL IT CRASHED INTO THE MIGHTY TIDAL WAVES OF PRE-HISTORIC EARTH!

AND STILL FURTHER DOWNWARD IT PLUNGED...DOWNWARD INTO THE OOZE AND SLIME OF THE VOLCANIC EARTH BELOW...DOWNWARD INTO FANTASTIC DEPTHS...

..UNTIL IT RESTED AND LAY QUIESCENT, SOLE OCCUPANT OF A YOUNG PLANET...SOLITARY TRESPASSER INTO NATURE'S DOMAIN...





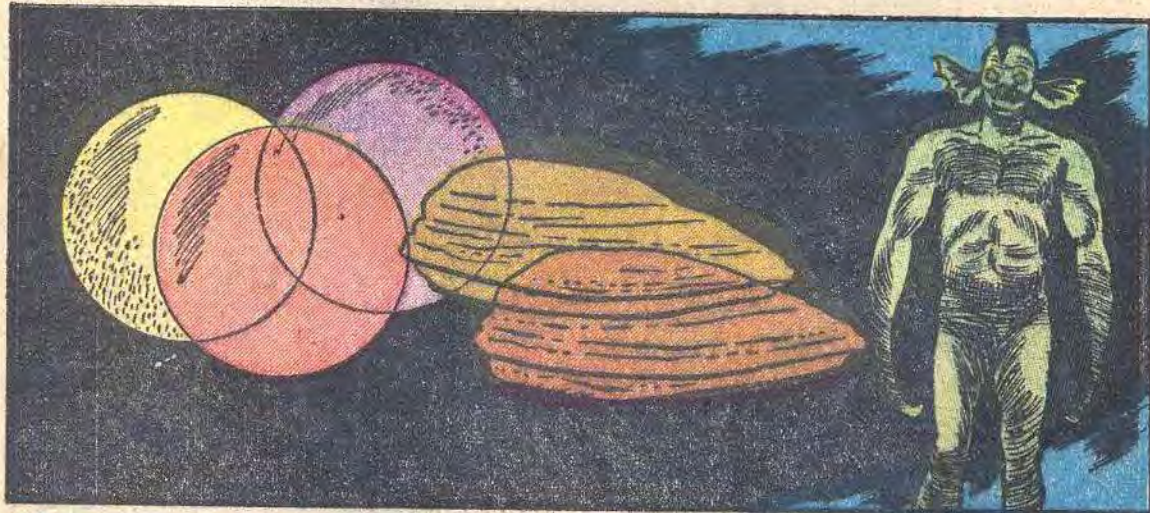
“EONS OF TIME LATER, WHEN SINGLE-CELLED ORGANISMS EVOLVED INTO MULTIPLE ENTITIES... WHEN TIDAL PRESSURE CHANGED AND RE-SURGED TO AND FRO, A BREAK OCCURRED IN THE KNOBBED ROCK BURIED ON THE OCEAN FLOOR...”



“AND OUT OF IT WRIGGLED A TINY, WORM-LIKE CREATURE, AWAKENED FROM A MIND SHATTERING REST...”



“TO DEVELOP INTO A COCCOON... AND FROM THAT INTO A SHELLED MONSTER AND FROM THAT INTO A FURRED, AMPHIBIOUS HORROR...”



“A MILLION... TWO... FIVE... TEN MILLION YEARS LATER IT BEGAN TO THINK... AND WITH THINKING CAME AWARENESS OF IT'S POWER...”

“I AM ON A PLANET IN IT'S INFANCY! THE DOMINANT FORM ON THIS PLANET IS A POOR CRAWLING THING THAT TRIES TO GET ON LAND BUT LIVES BETTER IN WATER! I SHALL WATCH IT EVOLVE! ONLY THEN WILL I FIND WHAT I SEEK...”



“MILLIONS OF YEARS LATER, MAN WAS BORN! AND WITH MAN CAME CIVILIZATION... EGYPT, GREECE, ROME, MEDIEVAL AGE, 18TH CENTURY, WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II, KOREA... AND ALWAYS THE HORROR FROM OUTER SPACE LAY QUIESCENT... WAITING... WAITING PATIENTLY...”





NOW AND THEN IT WOULD VENTURE FORTH FROM ITS SLIMEY DEN TO SNARE AND KILL THE CREATURES THAT POPULATED THE GLOBE. AND ALWAYS IT WOULD STUDY THEM.....

THESE ORGANISMS HAVE ONE CENTRALLY LOCATED BRAIN. NOT ONLY THAT BUT THE FOOD I SEEK IS TO BE FOUND **INSIDE** OF THEM!



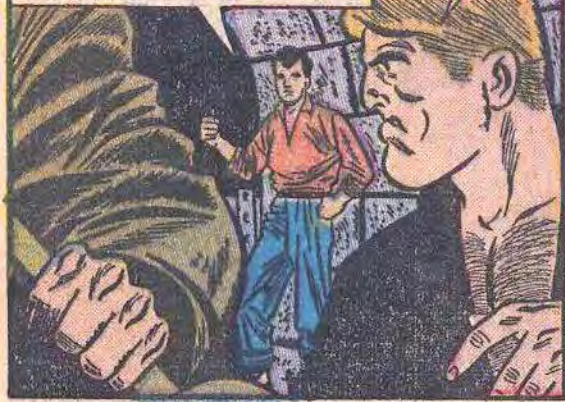
THEIR CORE OF PHOSPHOROUS WHICH I NEED FOR MY OWN BODY ENERGY IS DESTROYED WHEN THEY ARE KILLED. THEREFORE, I MUST HAVE THESE ORGANISMS **ALIVE** IF I AM TO SURVIVE!



AND THE MONSTER WAITED PATIENTLY AGAIN  
...UNTIL...

NO ONE TAKES IT EASY ON MY SHIFT, CARROLL! YOU HEARD ME! START CLEANING THAT SEWER OUTLET!

YEAH! YEAH! HOLD YOUR HORSES!



SOMEDAY I'M GONNA GET EVEN WITH THAT RAT! I'LL SHOW HIM. ALWAYS PICKIN' ON ME! MAKIN' ME DO ALL THE WORK!



WHILE THE UNSUSPECTING CREATURE WORKED, HIS UNKNOWN HOST CREEPED UP BEHIND HIM.....



A-A-A-A-A-G-G-G-H-H-H-H!!





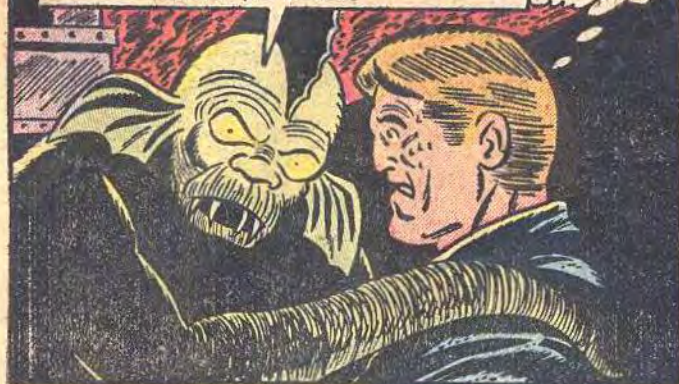
**BUT THE MONSTER DIDN'T WANT TO KILL THIS TIME...**

I NEED THE PHOSPHOROUS CONTENT FROM YOUR FELLOW CREATURES! BUT THEY MUST BE ALIVE WHEN I EAT THEM! SERVE ME AND LURE THEM TO ME... AND YOU SHALL PROFIT! REFUSE AND YOU SHALL BE A TASTY MORSEL!

I-I'M HAVING A NIGHTMARE! THIS **CAN'T** BE REAL!

ANYTHING YOU WISH WILL BE YOURS! WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?

I-I HAVE NO CHOICE! OKAY! I-I'LL DO AS YOU WANT! BUT... REMEMBER... I WANT TO BE **RICH!**



**SO THE PACT WAS MADE AND THE VERDICT SEALED! MINUTES LATER, CARROLL BEGAN HIS NEW "JOB" ON THE FIRST PERSON HE HATED...**

CHIEF! I GOTTA TALK TO YOU! I FOUND SOMETHING!

YEAH? WHAT?



**GOLD!** A GOLD VEIN AS LARGE AS YOUR BODY... RUNNING THROUGH THE OUTLET A WHOLE BLOCK LONG!

GOLD IN A SEWER OUTLET? LEMME SEE! QUICK!



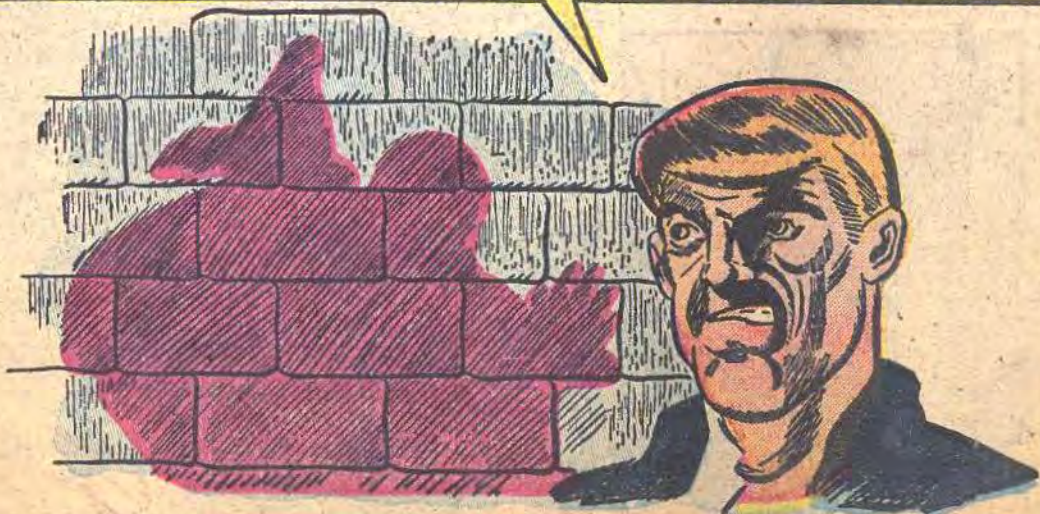
**BACK THROUGH THE GURGLING CESSPOOLS AND CAVERNS THEY RAN, THE VICTIM AND THE BAIT... BACK TO THE WAITING HORROR...**

JUST A FEW MORE FEET CHIEF! RIGHT THERE... INSIDE THOSE SHADOWS!

IF YOU'RE PLAYING A TRICK... I'M GONNA...

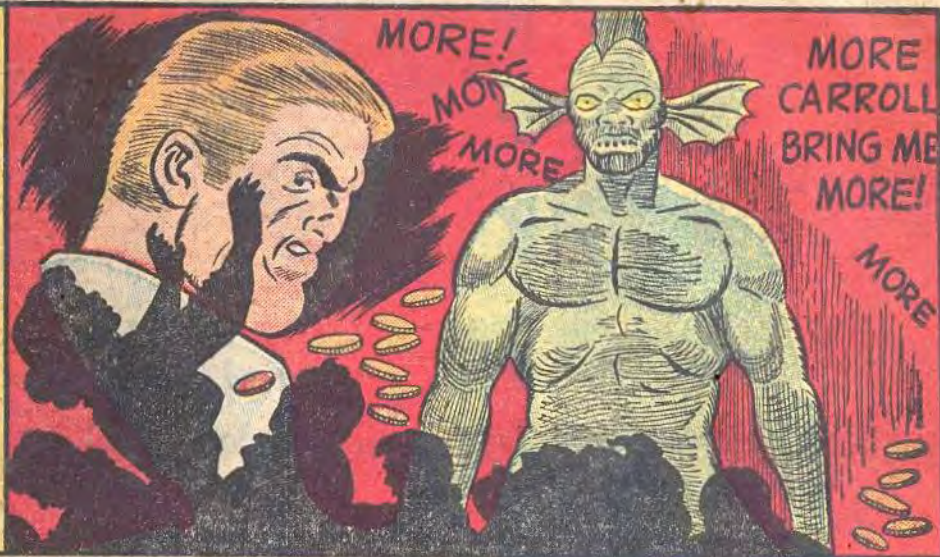


**YOU'RE GONNA DO NOTHING, SUCKER! YOU'LL BE DEAD! HA-HA!**





CARROLL HAD REALLY FOUND A "GOLD MINE!" BUT HE HAD TO WORK IT! AND DURING THE FOLLOWING MONTHS, A SUCCESSION OF DERELICTS, UNSUSPECTING NEIGHBORS, STRANGERS PASSING THROUGH THE VICINITY... ALL FELL FOR HIS "SALESMANSHIP"



AND IN TIME, HE GREW RICH, POWERFUL, AND RUTHLESS! WITH HIS "BUSINESS PARTNER" HANDLING MATTERS... INFLUENCING HIS FELLOW CREATURES WITH JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF BRAIN-TELEPATHY, CARROLL SOON BECAME A MAN TO BE RECKONED WITH...

I SAID I WANT TO MARRY THAT GIRL! TELL HER I WANT TO SEE HER!

B-BUT, SIR! SHE WANTS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!



BUT WEALTH AND POWER WEREN'T ENOUGH! CARROLL HAD TO BE LOVED! HE HAD TO FIND A WIFE! HIS CHOICE HOWEVER... PROVED UNFORTUNATE...

NO! I WON'T MARRY YOU... AND THAT'S FINAL! I'M ALREADY ENGAGED! NOW GET OUT!

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, JOAN!



AND A FEW NIGHTS LATER...

THERE GOES MY RIVAL! NOWS MY CHANCE! WITH HIM OUT OF THE WAY, SHE'LL COME RUNNING TO ME!



I WON'T KILL YOU, BUSTER! I'LL LET MY "PARTNER" DO THAT! THIS WAY I KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE! I GET RID OF YOU... AND I FEED IT!





BUT CARROLL HAD BEEN KEEN BY THE ONE PERSON WHO SHOULD NOT HAVE SEEN HIM, AND TWENTY MINUTES LATER, AFTER A RECKLESS CHASE...

I'LL KILL YOU FOR THIS! I'LL SHOW YOU...

YOU'RE CRAZY! LET GO OF THAT GUN... LET GO I SAID...



I'VE KILLED THEM BOTH! THE BULLET PASSED CLEAN THROUGH HER AND HIT HIM TOO! GOOD LORD WHAT WILL I DO? THE CREATURE IS HUNGRY! I... I HAVEN'T SENT IT FOOD IN DAYS!



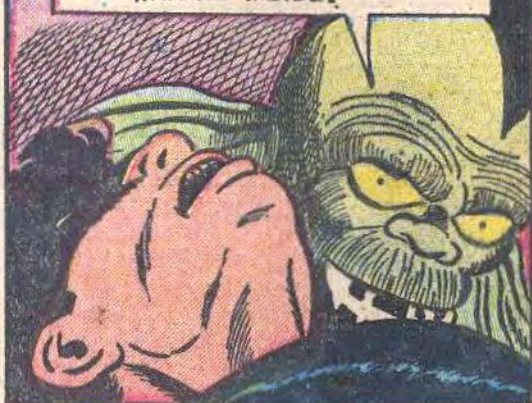
HOW UNFORTUNATE THAT THIS SHOULD HAPPEN! I CANNOT TOUCH EITHER OF THESE TWO CORPSES! THEIR PHOSPHOROUS CONTENT HAS BEEN NULLIFIED! YOU HAVE BEEN GETTING CARELESS, CARROLL!

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT... BUT... I... I'VE GOT SOME MORE IN THE CAR... ALIVE! I... I'LL GET THEM!

I'LL CALL THE COPS ABOUT THIS HORROR! I HAVE ALL I WANT! I SHOULD'VE THOUGHT OF THIS BEFORE!



YOU'RE LYING OF COURSE... BUT NO MATTER! YOU WILL DO! I'VE GROWN TIRED OF YOUR INEFFICIENT SERVICES! I HAVE A BETTER APPLICANT FOR THE POSITION! SOMEONE THAT'S WAITING INSIDE!



OH... DON'T BE SO SURPRISED! I'VE HAD MY EYES ON YOU FOR A LONG TIME! I'M SURE YOU'LL BE WELL SATISFIED... THERE **NEVER** ARE ANY COMPLAINTS! JUST LEAVE YOUR NAME WITH ME, AND I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU SOON... **VERY SOON!** HA, HA, HA...







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